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WARNING:
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ТОВАРИСТВО
АРІАТІЗНІКАЛ
ІНТЕЛІПАРІАЛ
ІНПІТІКІАМІО



The Ballad of

Captain Crunch

by Mike Agronell

"The Ballad of Captain Crunch" is a fictitious story about a real person. Or, rather, a fictitious story about an imaginary person to whom I have attributed a real person's name. The real Captain Crunch is a phone freak and computer hacker, and the little anecdotal passages about how he got his name and calling himself around the world are in essence true. However, the rest of the actions and evolutions concerning the main character of my story are not to be attributed to the real person, but are strictly figments of my overwrought imagination. Any reading of this narrative should be prefaced with this disclaimer:

You tell of your Robin Hood legend,
The thief with the heart of pure gold.

The Lone Ranger and Tonto and Zorro and all
Of those other brave heroes of old,
You sing of Doc Holliday and old Jesse James
And the infamous wild Dalton bunch.

But alone, at the top of the list of those heroes
Is the man that they call... CAPTAIN CRUNCH!

Now pariahs you might laugh at this curious
name,

He sounds like no prince among thieves,
And well you may ask how it is that he came
To be reckoned with such greats as these.
Well, he rubbed from the rib, the adlest there
was.

Though he took not a penny of plunder,
And were not for him, we'd be bent 'neath a
burden

We never could get out from under.

He never went armed with a pistol or sword
He carried no longbow or quiver.

It wasn't his style to go buckle his swast,
Stop a coach and cry, "Stand and deliver!"

His weapon—an Apple computer,
His bullet, it was an I.C.

His old trusty gun was a soldering iron,
His target—The Phone Company.

"Blue-boxers", they called us, and "phone freaks"
And less polite nicknames as well,
Applying the knowledge we picked up in college
In order to rip off Ma Bell.

We'd bread-board electronic circuits
Out of old Army surplus I.C.'s,
And make beepers and tools to fool their
computers.

And get all our phone calls for free.

For us, it was mostly the challenge,
A game between Ma Bell and us.

They'd close down a loophole, or put up a block,
Or give us a new code to bust.

And we all got P.C.'s and modems
And broke into their internal systems,
And scrambled their data and led up their trunk
lines.

And did all kinds of shit that just pissed 'em!
But 'twas more than a game for the Captain,
He had a real axe to grind.

An old electrical error by Ma Bell had left him
With feelings that were less than kind.
They'd harassed him with bills for long distance
calls.

For calls that he never had made,
And 'twas only after they shut off his service
He took up the blue-boxers' trade.

He learned the trade well, and soon made his
name,

When he found that the switching code locks
Could be broken with a tone from a whistle that
came

In a Captain Crunch cereal box.
He would dial up an 800 number,
And before the phone rang at all,

Give the whistle a blast, dia the number he
wanted,
And never get charged for the call.

You might say that he'd found his true calling,
Discovered where his talent lay,
I remember the time that he pulled off a feat
That still stands as a legend today.

From a pay phone in Grand Central Station,
Dropped a dime, and his signal he hurled
Via satellite, cable, and microwave relay,
And talked to himself round the world!

I never met him in person,
I never knew his true name,
Don't know what he looked like or where he
called home,

But I counted him friend, just the same,
All I knew was his voice and his renegade soul
And the tireless quest for perfection,
And I met him along with the rest of that crew
At the North Maritima Connection.

Now, the North Maritima Connection
Was a central Canadian exchange,

A fracture of trunk lines from provinces north
With a side effect that was most strange:
Through a quirk in the system that Bell never
planned,

(If they even knew of it at all)
Those who knew how could see the exchange
As the ultimate free conference call!

You could dial up a code any time, day or night
And converse with whoever was there,
'Twas the permanent floating blue-boxers'
conversation
With membership from everywhere.

There was logy from Fargo, and "Speaks" from
Detroit,
And the Swenson boys out of St. Paul,
And wild bullsh! for hours, swap jokes, or talk
shop,

Or just listen, say nothing at all.

And he told us, "They've made a new
breakthrough

On a miniaturized personal phone.
The bankroll's been squeezed and the lines
negotiated

Till we each could have one of our own,
And the unit's so small, it could fit in your ear
Or be surgically placed in your head."
Said I, "I'd remove it to go on vacation!"
"That would be illegal!" he said.

A pregnant moment of silence...
Then he said, with a squitter and a cough,
'George Orwell's 1984 is all hand!

How the hell could you turn the thing off?
You could never hang up, leave the phone off the
hook

Or be out of the reach of Big Brother.
Except that with old Ma Bell at the controls,
It would be more like 'Big Mother'!"

"Once they convince the American public
To give the configuration a try,
You might as well take what's left of your
privacy.

Smile, and kiss it goodbye!"
They'll put ads on TV, shove it down all our
throats

As only the Phone Company can,
'My God!' says Larry, "What on Earth can we
do?"
Says the Captain, "I have a plan!"

"Have you ever heard of a gittern?
That creature of legend that lives
in the bowels of a system as complex as this,
And makes sure the damn thing never works?"
'No such luck!' replied Larry, "They've got the
bugs out."

They've run all the kinks through the mill
They finished a field trial, did not see a glitch!
But the Captain said, "Oh, but they will!"



It was sometimes so crowded, you just couldn't
think.

But one night, at a quarter to three,
There were only the three of us on the exchange:
The Captain, and Larry, and me.

Now, Larry, he was our inside man,
An R&D tech at Ma Bell.
He had access to codes and computer net links
And hints of new products as well.

(Continued on page 11)

Getting the Most Out

by The Habit

The taking of good old Ma Bell has rendered wrong everything you now know about phone companies. The procedure for placing a long distance call is now above the understanding level of a good proportion of the public, and the various companies are doing very little to educate them. Thus this attempt to inform the reader what now call lives at the other end of his pair.

In areas that are now equal access, it is possible to place a long distance call using any of the carriers who will complete it for you. You do not have to have previously set up an account with the carrier, as in the past. They will complete the call and pass the billing back to your local operating company (LOC), which in turn bills you for the call. So to place the call via the "alternate" carrier, you pick up and dial:

10min + 1 + area code + number

The min is magic: it allows you to select a different carrier for that call. There are a million little Mom-n-Pop carriers in different areas; but here are some of the major ones whose access codes should be fairly consistent:

220: **Western Union**—consistently had audio 90% of the time

222: **MCI**—duplexity lines sometimes

288: **AT&T**—you know the story

333: **U.S. Telecom**—reassurably ok

444: **Minimel**—a major reseller of others' services

488: **ITT**—bad audio, useless for moderns

777: **BTE Sprint**—usually good quality—invoiced AT&T

When you complete a call this way, via a carrier who "doesn't know who you are", you are referred to as a "casual caller". Most of the major carriers will complete casual calls. The smaller ones usually want an access code and a pre-existing account. Note that all this is perfectly legal and nobody is going to come pound on your door and demand your fistbump for making your calls this way. The fun part starts when one considers that this two-stage billing process involves a lot of red tape and paper shuffling, and the alternate (i.e. not AT&T) carriers often have poorly designed software. This can often lead to as much as a 6-month lag time between when you make the call and when you get the bill for it. There is a chance that you won't get billed for some calls at all, especially real short ones. And

if you do get billed, the rates will be reasonable. Note that if you don't have an account with a given company, you won't be able to take advantage of any bulk rates they offer for their known customers.

It is likely that for this reason, i.e. all the mess involved in getting the billing properly completed, that the local Bell companies are attempting to suppress knowledge of this. Notice that when you get your equal access carrier bill, nowhere do they mention the fact that you can "switch" dial, i.e. 10min, through other carriers. They want you to pick one and set it up as your 1+ carrier so you don't have to learn anything new. Now, it's already highly likely that the little carriers will fold and get sucked up by AT&T and eventually everything will work right again, but this policy is pushing the process along. The majority of people aren't going to want to deal with shopping around for carriers, are going to choose AT&T because it's what they've come to trust, and their lines are still the best quality anyway. However, the more people become casual callers, the more started up the billing process is going to become, and the resulting chaos will have many effects, one of which may be free calls for the customers, and the carriers and LOCs being forced to either straighten up their acts, disable casual calls and less business, or knuckle under completely.

So where can you get more info about equal access, if not from your local company? You call 800-332-1124, which AT&T will happily complete for you, and talk to the special consumer awareness group dedicated to helping people out with equal access. They will send you, free of charge, a list of all the carriers which serve your area, with their access codes, customer service numbers, billing structure, and lots of other neat info. The LOCs will give out this number, but only under duress. They will not give out any information about other carriers, including what ones serve your central office, so you shouldn't even bother trying. It's apparently been made a universal company policy, which is ridiculous, but the case.

Let's get into some of the technical aspects of this. First off, you might ask, why 10min? Well, it could have been 11min too, but it wasn't. If you think about it, other numbers could be imposed as the beginnings of area codes, 3-digit 1

of Equal Access

carrier codes also leave plenty of room for expansion (now). Some of the carriers won't complete casual calls, and may even give recordings to the effect of "invalid access code". Basically when you dial this way, your central office simply passes the entire packet containing your number and the number you want to call to the carrier and lets the carrier deal with it. You'll notice that this process takes longer for some of the carriers. The carriers have differing database structures and hardware, so it takes some time to figure out if it knows who the calling number is, if bulk rates apply, and a few other things. While it's doing this search, you get silence. What's a lot of fun is that in areas that have recently gone equal access, the central offices do this exact same process for public phones. And since the carrier usually has no idea of what a public phone is, it happily completes the call for you as though you dialed it from home. It is unclear who gets the resulting bill from these, but it usually doesn't take them long to fix it. It's conceivable that the carriers can hold numbers to not complete calls from "in their database, as well as regular customer numbers.

Some carriers also handle 0+ calls. If you dial 10min 0+ instead of 1+, the office will hand it off as usual, and you'll be connected to the carrier's switch, which gives you a tone. You are expected to enter your authorization code at this point, and then off the call goes. This is so you can complete equal-access style calls from friends' phones and use your own billing. It also requires that you have an account with the carrier already and an authorization code to use. Some carriers, in places where the public phone bug has been fixed, will handle 1+ calls from them this way as

well. This mechanism introduces a security hole, because it's real easy to determine the length of a valid authorization code from this, since something happens right after the last digit is dialed. Carriers that don't do this will sometimes tell you to dial "operator-assisted calls" by dialing 102880+ the number you want. Already they're admitting that AT&T is better than they are.

And as if this wasn't enough, carriers that do this will also usually connect you straight to the switch if you dial 10min+. The LOCs are finally getting around to using the # key as sort of an "end-of-dialing" feature, so you can reach the switch directly without having to dial a local number or 800-something. Being able to get to the carrier's switch is useful, because they often have special sequences you can dial there to get their customer service offices, various test tones, and other things. If you get the switch and then dial # and the tone breaks, you may have one of these. Another # should bring the tone back; if digits have already been dialed then # is a regular cancel or recall. Some carriers use * for this. Anyway, if # breaks the tone, an additional digit may start a call to an office. You can tell if it's working if # has no further effect; you'll eventually either hear ringing or nothing if that digit hasn't been defined. Many of the carriers have magic digit sequences that would otherwise look like authorization codes, but go off immediately upon being dialed and call something.

Call timing and billing is a very hairy issue with the alternates, as one may see from the consumer group sheet. AT&T is still the only one that can return called-end supervision, i.e. the signal that tells your local office that the called party has picked up. The alternates, although they may be planning to install this through agreements with the LOCs and AT&T, have not done so yet, so they use timeouts to determine if billing should be started yet. These are usually the time that # rings takes, assuming that most people will give up after 6 or 7. So if you listen to your brother's phone ring 20 times because he went out drinking last night and is now dead to the world, you will get billed for the call whether he wakes up or not. This is sort of a cheapo compromise, but since AT&T is so reluctant to hand them supervision equipment, their hands are sort of tied. But

"The procedure for placing a long distance call is now above the understanding level of a good proportion of the public, and the various companies are doing very little to educate them."

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the telecom informer

BY DAN FOLEY

Updated Equal Access List

Once you pick an equal access long distance carrier, you aren't stuck with using just that one to make calls. By entering 10XXX (where XXX is the carrier code of your choice) you can make phone calls on other carriers. Don't be fooled into thinking that these are free though. Sometimes calls on other carriers may not catch up with you for several months. However if you try this from a hotel phone, it will never get back to you. Also, third party payphones handle these calls incorrectly, so the owner of the phone line gets the bill, not you. In response these phones are often "fixed" so that you can't make these calls.

End of Non-1+ LD Dialing

The last area of the country that did not require 1+ dialing for long distance will disappear on November 1st, 1987. A few CO's in 301, 202, and 703 still allow the old FSS programming hack which distinguished between local and long distance calls by the second digit of the exchange/area code. Every number in 202 is dialable either using 202 as the area code or instead either 703

(Northern VA) or 301 (Maryland), the calling area is second largest in the US, about 70 miles in diameter, second only to Atlanta. Any number can be dialed from any phone "locally" (i.e. without an area code or 1+). According to the North American Numbering Plan (where the acronym NPA—Numbering Plan Area, also known as area codes, came from), the second digit of an area code has to be either a 1 or a 0 (i.e. 212, 516, 201, 703). General office exchange codes were not allowed to use either the 0 or 1 as the second digit (on a telephone dial neither the 0 nor the 1 has an equivalent letter combination; therefore,

when they named exchanges for the town or area which it covered (as in PE-Nassauville-5600) none had a 0 or a 1 as the second digit. This plan worked well for years, but as local 2600 readers know, many downtown urban areas

used up all possibly allocated three number combinations (which is a lot, about $8*8*10 = 640$ exchanges handling 6,400,000 numbers (but read on before you think I'm exaggerating), as the first and second digits couldn't be 0 or 1). Code 00 was nowhere near over 6 million, as often downtown business areas had old inefficient X-bar switches

and the phone company couldn't dare shut down an area for even a day to do a switchover to ESS. Also, with the proliferation of computer and data lines in the 70's along with a huge expansion in American business's bureaucracy and the growth of the skyscraper office building... Well, you see what I'm leading up to? Yup, the telcos needed every damn exchange they could get their hands on (especially as companies liked their own Centrex or PBX exchanges). In the mid-70's (the exact date is published somewhere in the last three years of 2600) Los Angeles (213) had the first exchanges with a 1 or a 0 as the second digit (they used Canadian area codes). As this practice spread, it became necessary to get rid of the ESS hack which allows users to avoid the 1+ for long distance. Now even this measure is ineffectual, as was demonstrated when Los Angeles was broken into 213 and 318, and New York City into 212 and 718.

Newly Direct Dialable Countries

For those of you trying out your blue boxes or bogus cellular ROMs, AT&T announced effective March 13, 1987, that it was adding routing to even more exotic corners of the globe. Using 298 as your country code you can reach the Faeroe Islands. Greenland is now 299, Malta is 356, Micronesia is 691, and the Marshall Islands are 692. You used to be able to dial the Faeroe Islands via Denmark (1+45142) but no longer. The Faeroe Islands, like Greenland, are a self-governing region of Denmark. Tonga (676) may also become direct dialable at this time too. Tonga was

U P P E R H A N D

Design

When you need a hand with design, flyers, business cards, newsletters, printing, mailing services... in short, anything to communicate your message, drop us a line.

UPPERHAND
12 Whitfield Lane
Coram, NY 11727

An Envelope Please

Dear 2600:

I don't object to the price increase. After all, it costs money to publish 2600 and your group isn't operating as a charity to phone phreaks. However, I do object to the new policy of mailing issues without envelopes. You may not consider 2600 to be an underground or illegal publication, and perhaps it isn't. But 2600 isn't exactly *Newsweek* either. I haven't seen 2600 on the magazine rack next to the traditional inquirer and *TV Guide* while I was waiting in the express line with my twelve items or less!

In this country we are supposed to have "Freedom of the Press," and I'm all for it. However, with the Reagan Administration era of decreased personal privacy and freedom, a 2600 subscriber can't be too careful. The postal clones have been known to report recipients of "subversive" material to the authorities for possible surveillance and harassment. I for one cannot afford to add any fodder to my FBI file. Hoover's Henchmen probably have enough material on my activities to write a short novel already! Let's minimize the amount of paperwork some pencil-pushing bureaucrat has to do by mailing 2600 in envelopes where it will be away from the prying eyes of Big Brother. I want future issues of 2600 to come to my mail drop in envelopes.

About the new format of 2600: it looks great! Unfortunately, it doesn't fit well into a 3-ring notebook like the old format did. How about changing back to the original style? I bet it would be cheaper, too.

The article "TAP: The Legend is Dead" by Cheshire Catalyst in the January, 1987 issue confirms what most of us already knew: that Cheshire is a jerk! He was literally stealing from his fellow phone phreaks for three years! It just goes to show that you

can't find an honest criminal these days. What ever happened to honor among thieves?

By the way, where did you ever come up with the name Richard Cheshire? His real name is Robert "Ozzie" Osband and the "Large Manhattan Bank" that he worked for is Republic National Bank, located at 452 Fifth Avenue and 40th Street. His phone number is 212-569-5459.

Discreetly,
Bob Gamma

First of all, we never would support the notion of minimizing paperwork for bureaucrats. Think about it. If everybody who receives 2600 had a file opened on them for that reason alone, the bureaucratic machinery would become so bogged down that it would never be able to function efficiently. And that would be in everybody's best interests as far as we're concerned.

Seriously, reading 2600 is nothing to worry about. You would be amazed if you saw the kinds of people and organizations that subscribe. The only people who read 2600 that should worry about being "watched" are those that are already being "watched". In other words, 2600 does not enter into it.

Assuming "Big Brother" knows about 2600, we really don't see what difference getting it in an envelope that has our return address on it will make. Either way, "they" know you're getting it. What we're more concerned about is whether or not it's being mishandled or delayed in the post offices. Domestic customers should receive 2600 no later than the 20th of the month. If this is not the case, call us so we can do something about it.

We will continue sending your magazine in an envelope even though this costs us extra. We consider it an obligation to our subscribers for getting us this far.

And about that phone number you gave us—that's simply an answering

machine that Cheshire set up in a friend's apartment to send and receive messages. More often than not, it seems, the outgoing message has been changed remotely by outside influences. Retributive hacker justice, perhaps.

Comments...

Dear 2600:

New format is very readable. But incompatible with old-style "3-ring binder" format. How do I add to my complete collection of back copies?

(Continued on page XX) is perhaps necessary for cheap tabloids. We all read all the mag, so you don't have to "burde" us by putting all article beginnings up front.

Am I really the only life subscriber?

AH

We are quite aware of the incompatibility. But second-class postage requirements are such that our magazine must be 24 pages or more in order to qualify for reduced rates. We simply cannot afford 39 cents a piece, which is the first-class rate. At the same time, a 24 page issue with our old size is currently impossible. We could drill holes in the new format but then we'd have to print less on a page to accommodate the holes. Since the new format is easier to carry around, it shouldn't be hard to devise a method of filing. We'd appreciate suggestions from readers on this.

We avoid "jumps" whenever possible. But the realities of laying out a magazine sometimes make them inevitable. And, no, you're not the only lifetime subscriber. We have a few and they are all quite happy knowing that their \$260 has earned them the right never to be bothered with having to renew again.

And More Comments...

Dear 2600:

I have a few comments on your new format. First, I miss the large format. Its

large pages were easier to read, and the page-numbering made referencing simple. I also miss the loose-leaf holes. As stated in your first issue (I have them all), 2600 should be filled for reference purposes. The new format makes this very difficult.

I think I see your intentions: you want 2600 to become a widely distributed and accepted magazine, maybe even sold at newsstands or bookstores (where a flashy cover is important for impulse sales). I myself, as a subscriber and supporter of 2600, would not like this method of distribution to be undertaken. For one, it's expensive. A fancy three-color cover does nothing for me except use up my subscription dollars which could be better spent printing more information. I just don't feel 2600 has mass-market appeal.

To sum up my opinions, bring back the old format! Just add new pages and columns as necessary, and keep the halftones.

P.S. You wasted four valuable pages by printing cellular telephone frequencies that can be derived from this simple formula:

**FREQUENCY=869.97+
[CHANNEL*.03] where: CHANNEL=1
TO 666
Frequency=870 to 889.95 Mhz**

Bernie S.

Correction: we only wasted three valuable pages. And, while some considered that a waste, others were happy with it because, for the first time, they could actually see what the frequencies were instead of having to calculate them. After all, what would they do with the calculation? Probably, print out a list. Seems like we've saved them a couple of steps, doesn't it?

As far as distribution at newsstands is concerned, 2600 does have a future here. We have experimented with a few and had positive results. We find this to be a great way to attract new

(continued on page 1)

readers who would otherwise never know of our existence. We in turn will provide them with knowledge that they never thought was obtainable. This does not mean we're "selling out" or trying to get mass-market appeal. If you go to a halfway decent newsstand, you'll see quite a few other magazines reaching out in the same way.

An Experience to Share

Dear 2600:

One bright day last March, a week after my 16th birthday, I came home to discover that the cops had raided my room and taken everything—computer, printer, modem, monitor, 350 disks, but left the Apple IIc power pack. Among those 300 disks were about 20 phreak/hack disks, 300 pirated programs, and a number of personal disks. MCI had caught me hacking out codes and put a Dialed Number Recorder on my line. They had followed all my calls for 1½ months.

My first meetings with probation and lawyers scared me to death. I was informally threatened with going to five, having to pay immense fines, never getting any of my stuff back etc. The next 2 months of waiting for my trial were hell. I was originally charged with 9 counts of various crimes, including phone fraud, accessing of MCI's computer, and annoying phone calls (exchanginga hacking).

As it turned out I used a county lawyer and ended up paying nothing for his services. I got off on most of the counts and had to pay a fine of \$479.32, \$29 of which were phone bills and the rest were "service charges" of having to switch the 22 hours I used. I also had to serve 80 hours of community service and remain on probation until these items were done.

I got all of my computer stuff back minus 11 disks of phreak/hack stuff (they missed quite a few). I did pay the

fine which was a hell of a lot less than what it should have been. I actually completed about 15 hours of community service but my probation officer was easily deceived.

I just got off probation last week and all and all I've got to say it was well worth it. I wrote to give you my account of being caught and what the end resolution was (not very harsh). I do hope that none of you have to go through what I did in those first 2 months.

The Sultan

Getting caught at something illegal is never "worth it" unless it's something you really believe in or something you can erase later. And if you brag about this to lots of people, you'll probably find yourself reliving history. Keep us posted. We care.

Words of Agreement

Dear 2600:

Just a quick note to tell you I agree with your new format (except it's too bad it doesn't come three-hole punched). Keep up the good work—getting my first issue of 2600 (December 1986) was like a breath of fresh, ionized air.

DE

Words of Caution

Dear 2600:

The mailman brought me your "surprise" and I found, after quickly reading cover-to-cover, that I felt as though your excitement/pride was something that I also felt a part of. Thanks for being there... thanks for moving ahead... thanks for all your efforts to allow us all to enjoy the ride.

One worry did creep into my mind: will 2600 somehow move into a mainstream approach to its product/subject/readers. It is my hope that you remain true to your present direction. Tell it like it really is... like it can be (given the very creative people out there). "Rub the lamp... call out the

(Continued on page 23)

2600 marketplace

I'D LIKE TO TRADE PC software with ANYONE having an IBM PC or compatible. At present my PC library approximates 110 products including the latest games, diagnostic programs, business software, utilities, and various word processing and other application software. Readers can contact me by writing: Software, PO Box 73, Unimdale, NY 11553.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF THE BLUE BOX WANTED! I am a beginning phone enthusiast and would greatly appreciate if someone could help me in designing a blue box. Of course, as you might have guessed it, this is for "informative" purposes only! Send your replies to Mr. Oscar Statuto, 224A Washington St. #9, Lynn, MA 01902.

WANTED: A decent modem program for use on a Zenith 2-100 running MS-DOS. Contact Marney @ 2600 (516) 751-2600 or PO Box 762, Middle Island, NY 11953.

DOCUMENTATION on electronic & digital FAX's and switching systems. Willing to trade/purchase. Also looking for Bell System Practices and other such paraphernalia. Write to Bill, c/o 2600, PO Box 752B, Middle Island, NY 11953.

CELLULAR TELEPHONE INFORMATION WANTED. I will pay a modest fee for info which has not yet been published in 2600. Please describe the type of info that you have and name your price. Mr. B., P.O. Box 2895, Brooklyn, NY 11202.

MANUALS OR INSTRUCTIONS NEEDED for two modems labeled Dataphone Channel Interface. One has label on the outside that says: 4442 Series 1, Data Mounting, 52-10247-01-123 and the other says: 4442 DATA M/G, 5D-10247-01-123, SERIES 1 83 MG 12. The boards on the inside are labeled DAS 8298 L1A, SERIES 4, 81MG3 and DAS 8298 L1A, SERIES 5, 84 MG 04. Send info to: P.O. Box 50346, Raleigh, NC 27650.

PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR wants to hear from 2600 readers who have electronic equipment he can buy cheap! Gastamp Private Eye is into Electronic Counter-measures/TSCM in the trade parlance. 425 "F" Street, San Diego, CA 92101. (619) 233-6881.

TAP BACK ISSUES—complete collection, vol. 1-83 plus supplemental reports and schematics. Approx. 400 pages of quality copies sent via UPS or US Mail, \$100 includes delivery. Send cash, check or MO (payable to PEI). Cash sent same day, others allow 4 weeks. to: Pete G., Post Office Box 463, Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054.

HEY YOU! This is the chance you've been waiting for! A rather new service of 2600 Magazine: Got something to sell? Looking for something to buy? Or trade? This is the place! And it's time to subscribe! Just send us whatever you want to say without making it too long! and we'll print it! Only please please, no businesses! Deadline for April issue: 4/5/87.

248 WESTLIS (CZ)
 ACTING: W2'S: 6553

26
 24
 68
 84
 93

241

The last command is one which you should never execute, unless you have access to the tape drives. Nevertheless, it makes a good first try to the article.

241 US (CZ)
 0, 1, 2 or E ENTER E (CZ)

241 US (CZ) --- TAP PRESSER AND OTHER KEY TYPE

105216

Telecom Information (continued from page 17)

assigned 676 last year, but implementation was delayed. Installations for local central offices around the country in excess 676 as I long haven't been rescheduled even yet.

Captain Crunch

(continued from page 17)

It's been a few years since they closed the Exchange.

When the Captain got all on his own. We've since seen dressiture, Sprint, MCI, and the ten dollar Japanese phone.

When I ring up his phone, a recorded voice says, "This number's no longer in service."

But I know he keeps wigi, and I know he keeps watch.

And I know he still makes Ma Bell nervous.

And now sometimes when listening to answering machines,

Or sometimes when I'm on hold

A voice will come through to me, faint, but distinct.

A voice I remember of old.

And you'd think it was leak-through from some other line.

But I know that he's talking to me. It's old Captain Crunch keeping watch on Ma Bell.

The soul of the Phone Company.
 Page 22 March, 1987 2609

Mike Aganoff is a folk singer from Exton, NJ. He also plays concertina, banjo, recorder, as well as many other instruments. His Babes of Jake and 10-700 Mowly has achieved nationwide acclaim through the performances of Bill Staines. He's a board member and past president of the Folk Project, and manager for that organization's collocation, The Minschel Show.

His collection, *Jake, the Captain, and Other Jokes*, is available for \$6.50 postage paid. Write to Mike Aganoff, PO 4 Box 45 Oak Hills, Exton, NJ 07305.

Asterny of you know by now, the real Captain Crunch, John Draper, was arrested in late December for something that had absolutely nothing to do with phones.

According to police, Draper was helping to manufacture fake Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) cards in San Francisco. These are the cards you insert into machines that read a magnetic strip and either demand money, let you pass, or give back money. Washington DC also has this kind of a system.

Draper, who was arrested with two others, has pleaded not guilty to charges of forgery, conspiracy, and computer fraud. He's free on \$11,500 bail.

According to the San Francisco Bay Area, it's become a sort of sport to try and outwit the BART system. In fact, several colleges in California had contests, the results of which were widely circulated among crackers. This caused BART to change the system once and now it appears they'll have to do it again.

Well, happy that Captain Crunch smoked another system, if that's in fact what he did. We hope, however, that he wasn't selling forgeries to the general public, as he's being accused. There's nothing clever or ingenious about the latter and, if convicted of this, it would relegate the Captain to the status of a common thief, not to mention the probable prison term involved.

We don't want to see hackers and phone phreaks going to jail for being stupid and/or greedy. That's a waste of a real talent.

By the way, we've told that Pacific Bell has entered the case because Draper allegedly used sophisticated electronic equipment to gain free access to the long distance telephone network. That's a pretty fancy way to describe a touch tone phone, isn't it?

LETTERS

magic forces...let Uncle Sam figure out how to control what comes forth...let 2600 readers enjoy the thrill and excitement of fresh ideas and the raw power that comes from new information in the hands of young minds without restrictions.

Ben Harrell
 San Diego

Now why didn't we say that?

A Response

Dear 2600:

Your new format for 2600 looks good. Thanks for the extra effort to improve it, and keep up the good work. Also, thanks for the fine TAP article by Chesliee Cal.

We must respond to Arab 149's complaint that we charge too much (\$2 each) for copies of back issues of TAP, and that we are ripping-off the work of Chesliee Cal.

Consider:

(1) No issue of TAP was copyrighted. When you don't copyright your work, it falls into the public domain and anyone can copy and distribute it. And it implies that you either don't care or actually want this to happen.

(2) We advertised in TAP and contributed articles to it.

(3) We highly recommended TAP in several of our publications. We, as well as dozens of Consumertronics' customers were ripped-off of subscription fees to TAP. And we lost substantial credibility and business because of this. A few people even falsely accused us of being in cahoots with TAP.

(4) Before selling copies of TAP, we wrote TAP as to our intentions, and we notified mutual acquaintances of TAP staffers. And we openly advertised the resale of TAP back issues. At no time did we ever receive any objection from any former TAP staffer for doing this. And no staffer, to our knowledge, competed with us to sell TAP back issues.

(5) Arab 149 does not understand the economics of numbers. Orders for TAP

(continued from page 18)

back issues average about two issues per order. There's a lot more work involved per issue in making one copy compared to making 100 copies. More work means more money! Also, we charge \$1.00 for copies of all 91 back issues. Also, TAP issues are difficult to copy. Constant changes in paper content and reduction must be made as TAP issues have many different formats and print densities. It's a tedious job! \$2 per issue is reasonable!

(6) Consumertronics is a profit making business. We support ourselves and children with it. Please realize that but for Consumertronics, 2600, and a few others, where would you acquire this invaluable and unique information during a time of increasing government and big business rip-offs and oppression? The personal freedom situation is much worse now than it was in the sixties when a lot more people had the balls to protest and fight wrongdoing. We need your support to continue! Think about that the next time you feel that you are paying too much for information that was difficult, costly and risky to acquire, and risky to publish!

John J. Williams
 Consumertronics
 2011 Crescent Dr.
 Alamogordo, NM 88310

More on ICN

Dear 2600:

Here is something about ICN that I found in the February '87 issue of Consumer Reports:

"In Wisconsin, the attorney general recently obtained a temporary injunction against a second flat-rate company, Independent Communications Network. Among other things, ICN must now disclose that fewer than 5 percent of its customers' calls go through."

I also have one question—does anyone know ANI for Montana?

Jim A.
 Montana
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